

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amend claims: 1-11

- 5 1. (Currently Amended) A filter ~~Filter-assembly~~ comprising a plurality of longitudinal elongated filter elements (7) that are suitable for separating fluid from solid particles, having an open upper end (2) sealed into a sealing device (8) and a closed bottom end attached to a filter support (10) that is mounted on a filter grid (11),
10 ~~characterized in that~~ in which the filter grid (11) has a plurality of grid elements (12) together forming the filter grid (11), wherein at least a portion of the cross-section of the grid elements (12) between two adjacent filter elements (7) is pointiform.
- 15 2. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 1, wherein the cross-section of the grid element (12) is pointiform over at least the total portion of the grid element (12) between the filter elements (7).
- 20 3. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 1 or 2, wherein the point (17) of the cross-section of the grid element (12) has an angle $\tau \leq 2 \cdot (90 - \alpha)$, and the angles τ_1 and τ_2 of each of the edges of said point (17) with a perpendicular line (19) are $\leq (90 - \alpha)$, wherein α stands for the angle of repose of the solid particles.
- 25 4. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of ~~any one of~~ claims 1-3, wherein the filter elements (7) are at least substantially vertically mounted.
- 30 5. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of ~~any one of~~ claims 1-4, wherein the surface of the grid element (12) is smoothened.
6. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of ~~any one of~~ claims 1-5, wherein the filter support (10) is a longitudinal elongated extension that fits into a recess provided in the filter element (7).
7. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of ~~any one of~~ claims 1-6, wherein the filter support (10) is placed on a point of intersection (13) of at least two grid elements (12).

8. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of ~~any one of claims 1-7,~~ wherein the ratio of the total area of the horizontal cross-section at the maximum thickness of the grid elements ~~(12):~~the total area of open parts ~~(15)~~ of the filter grid ~~(11)~~ is less than 1:1.5.

5 9. (Currently Amended) The filter assembly of claim 8, wherein the ratio of the total area of the horizontal cross-section at the maximum thickness of the grid elements ~~(12):~~the total area of open parts ~~(15)~~ of the filter grid ~~(11)~~ is between 1:3.5 and 1:5.

10 10. (Currently Amended) The filter Filter grid ~~(11)~~ for accommodating a plurality of filter elements ~~(7)~~ that are suitable for separating fluid from solid particles, said filter grid comprises: comprising filter supports ~~(10)~~, ~~preferably longitudinal elongated extensions that fit into a recess provided in the filter elements (7), characterized in that having~~ at least a portion of the cross-section of the grid elements ~~(12)~~ between two adjacent filter elements ~~(7)~~ is pointiform.

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11. (Currently Amended) A filter vessel comprising:
a longitudinal vessel body ~~(1)~~ having upper ~~(2)~~ and lower ends ~~(3)~~;
a master tube sheet ~~(18)~~ separating the area of the vessel body ~~(1)~~ containing fluid and the area containing fluid and solid particles;
20 at least one inlet port ~~(4)~~ in said vessel body ~~(1)~~ for admitting fluid to be filtered from solid particles;
outlet ports ~~(5,6)~~ in said vessel for discharging the fluid and for discharging the solid particles; and
at least one filter assembly ~~of any one of claims 1-9, comprising a plurality of~~
25 longitudinal elongated filter elements that are suitable for separating fluid from solid particles, having an open upper end sealed into a sealing device and a closed bottom end attached to a filter support that is mounted on a filter grid, in which the filter grid has a plurality of grid elements together forming the filter grid, wherein at least a portion of the cross-section of the grid elements between two adjacent filter elements is pointiform.

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